



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/054,279	01/24/2002	Yoshiharu Sasaki	Q68236	6321

7590 09/13/2005

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037-3213

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, ANTHONY H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2854

DATE MAILED: 09/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/054,279	SASAKI, YOSHIHARU	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Anthony H. Nguyen	2854	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 June 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-53 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-23 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 24-53 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the "suction apparatus" (claims 1 line 7, claims 5,6 and 7, line 6) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered. Note that applicant states that a corrected Fig.7 has been submitted. However, the corrected Fig.7 has not been received. Therefore, the objection to the drawings has been repeated.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-7 and 24-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Williams et al. (US 6,024,019) in view of Corrado et al. (US 6,196,128).

With respect to claims 1, 24 and 53, Williams et al. teaches a recording apparatus having a recording head 320, a flexible plate 306 or 122, a recording medium fixing member 500 which includes a plurality of suction ports 506 which secure the flexible plate 306,122 and a cylinder cleaner 325 (Williams et al., Figs. 2, 8,11 and 12). Williams et al. does not teach the adhering roller which cleans the fixed surface of the recording medium fixing member. Corrado

Art Unit: 2854

et al. teaches the adhering cleaning roller 40 which moves to or away from the surface of the roller 18 for cleaning as shown in Fig.1. In view of the teaching of Corrado et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the recording apparatus of Williams et al. by substituting the adhering roller as taught by Corrado et al. to improve the efficiency of cleaning the fixed surface of a recording medium fixing member in place of the cylinder cleaner 325 of Williams et al. With respect to claims 2,3, 25, 31-33 and 39-41, the selection of a desired size or adhesive strength or adhesive material used for the roller or the hardness of the adhering roller for would be obvious through routine experimentation in order to get best possible cleaning the surface of the recording member. With respect to claims 5-7, 35,43-45, 50 and 51, the combination of Williams et al. and Corrado et al. teaches the broad steps of attaching the flexible plate on to the flexible plate onto the fixed surface of a roller or a cylinder and leaning the flexible plate using an adhering roller or the steps of removing foreign material using an adhesive roller which is moved toward or away from a printing roller or a cylinder as recited in the claims. With respect to claim 52, the use of a printing plate having a plurality of holes is well known in the art.

Response to Arguments

Applicants' arguments filed on June 21, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive of any error in the above rejections.

Applicant argues that Williams et al. and Corrado et al. does not teach the flexible plate which is attached onto the fixed surface of the recording medium fixing member or a printing cylinder as recited in the claims.

However, as explained above, Williams et al. teaches clearly the printing structure or the flexible plate 122, 306 which is attached to the surface of the recording medium fixing member 106, 300 which includes carrier 110 as shown in Figs.2, 8 and 10. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been well aware of the adhering cleaning roller which can be moved towards or away from the surface of a roller for cleaning and would have found its use in Williams et al. for cleaning the surface of the recording medium. It is noted that the cylinder cleaner 325 of Williams et al. cleans the surface of the cylinder 300 after the plate material is stripped off (Williams et al., col.10 line 57).

Applicant argues that the recording medium fixing member 500 and a cylinder cleaner 325 of Williams et al. cannot be combined since the cylinder cleaner is disclosed in different embodiments.

However, the use of the cylinder cleaner in every embodiments of Williams et al. would have obvious since each flexible plate is attached onto the fixed surface of recording medium or the printing cylinder. For example, the flexible plate 122 can be attached onto the surface of 402 of the printing cylinder 400 which includes a vacuum pump 404 (Williams et al., Fig.10 , col.11 lines 36-49), and also the flexible plate 122 can be attached onto the surface of the the recording medium fixing member 500 Williams et al., col.12 line 57 and shown in Fig.12).

Applicant argues that Williams et al. and Corrado et al. does not teaches the adhesive roller having a crown shape recited in claims 24 and 35.

However, Corrado et al. teaches the adhesive roller having a crown shaped as defined in the claims. Also, as explained above, the combination of Williams et al. and Corrado et al. renders obvious the structure and method as recited in claims 36- 53.

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching,

Art Unit: 2854

suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, Williams et al. and Corrado et al. are in the printing art and using a cleaning apparatus for cleaning the surface of a printing cylinder. Therefore, the combination of Williams et al. and Corrado et al. renders obvious the structure and method as recited in the claims

Conclusion

Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See M.P.E.P. § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a).

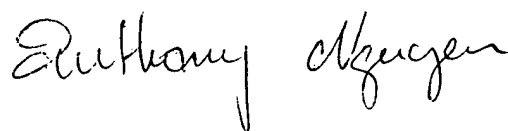
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS FINAL ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS ACTION. IN THE EVENT A FIRST RESPONSE IS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE MAILING DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION AND THE ADVISORY ACTION IS NOT MAILED UNTIL AFTER THE END OF THE THREE-MONTH SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD, THEN THE SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD WILL EXPIRE ON THE DATE THE ADVISORY ACTION IS MAILED, AND ANY EXTENSION FEE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) WILL BE CALCULATED FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THE ADVISORY ACTION. IN NO EVENT WILL THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE EXPIRE LATER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-2169.

The examiner can normally be reached daily from 9 AM to 5PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld, can be reached on (571) 272-2168.

Art Unit: 2854

The fax phone number for this Group is (571) 273-8300.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Nguyen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anthony" and the last name "Nguyen" clearly distinguishable.

Anthony Nguyen

9/8/05

Patent Examiner

Technology Center 2800